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Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

June 14, 2010

Call to Order

President Larry Griffin called the of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:16 A.M.

Board Members Present: Larry Griffin, Keith Harrison, John Irwin, Rose Moye, Richard Johnson, Ralph Sims, Bus Spaniola, Louise Stilwill, Morris Thomas, Tom Truscott, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Wiskemann.

Board Members Absent: Andy Andersen, Adriana Greci Green, Charles Seeley, and Paul Tarr.

Board Members Excused: Andy Andersen, Adriana Greci Green, Charles Seeley, and Paul Tarr.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Martha Bloomfield.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as transmitted; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 2010 meeting minutes as transmitted; motion passed.

President's Report

Past President Spaniola presented his annual report for 2009/2010 (Attached). President Griffin thanked Past President Spaniola and Past Board Secretary Harrison for their years of service as Board officers.

Treasurer Report

May 1 - 31, 2010			
BALANCE	5-01-10		4,860.71
DEPOSIT	5-17-10		<u>+ 556.15</u>
		5,416.86	
Cashed Checks			
	1498	Statehood Day	150.00
	1502	History Magazine	223.44
	1503	Walker Tavern	<u>33.55</u>
			406.99
			-406.99
BALANCE	5-31-10		5,009.87
Benevolent Fund		\$ 50.00	

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A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period May 1 – May 31, 2010; motion passed.

Treasurer Johnson presented the below funding request for education programs and community outreach that had been received from the Michigan Historical Museum for the period June 2010 through January 2011:

Harvest Fest (October) Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	800.00
Archaeology Day (October) Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00
Haunted History (October) Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	800.00
Docent Programming Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00
WinterFest 2008 (December) Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00
Statehood Day (January 2011) Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00
Scout Programs/Camp Ins/Weekend Programs Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00
Summer Sizzles Day Camp (June-Aug.) Printing/Promotion	800.00
Community Outreach for Advent House programs with the Museums.	600.00
Music at the Museum Series (for refreshments)	125.00

A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 2010 – January 2011 funding support request from the Michigan Historical Museum; motion passed:

Presentation of Bills

No bills that were not otherwise previously approved were presented.

Museum Report

Martha Bloomfield indicated that there was nothing new to report.

Committee Reports

A. 2010 Veterans Day Program Committee. (Paul Tarr and Larry Griffin – Co chairs): Larry Griffin confirmed that Alexander Jefferson, Tuskegee Airman, would be here for the program.

A motion was made and seconded to approve an honorarium of \$200 to cover expenses of Mr. Jefferson; motion passed.

In addition, it was reported that Col. Victor Kucher, US Air Force retired, should be present for the program. Finally, it was reported that there was no longer a local chapter of the Military Order of World Wars to serve as a sponsor for the event.

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B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair)*. A brief discussion ensued regarding where the Friends' display should be located in order to ensure ease of pickup and drop off for the Board. It was indicated that a location on the first floor of the Museum would be best. Martha would arrange the location. In addition, it was indicated that the Board should have a case to carry its additional display items, brochures, and newsletters. Rose Moyer offered a suitcase in which the material could be transported and stored when not in use. Keith Harrison indicated that he would be sending out a staffing signup schedule for the upcoming July 20 – 22, 2010 Ag Expo. He also passed around the battle streamer for the upcoming August 2010 Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster.

C. *Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley and Tom Truscott)*. No report

D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair)*. No report.

E. *Grants Committee (Rose Moyer - Chair)*. No report. .

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Bill Wellman, Co-chairs)*. No report.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair)*. It was suggested that a possible date for Morris Thomas' presentation could be Thursday, August 19, 2010. This still needs to be finalized and also advertised.

It was suggested that a possible date for Martha Bloomfield's book signing event could be either Thursday October 21st or Sunday October 24th.

A motion was made and seconded for the Friends to host this event and to provide for the refreshments; motion passed.

H. *Bylaws (Paul Tarr – Chair)*. It was indicated that the committee still needed to get the proposed bylaw amendments to the Board to review.

Old Business

A. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status*. There has been no notification regarding the Friends' letter application to the Internal Revenue Service for a Group Exemption Number.

New Business

It was reported that there still were problems with the Michigan Historical Society's handling of the Friends' *Michigan History Magazine* subscriptions. This will need to be followed up on by the new Board Officers.

It was reported that Martha Bloomfield's application with the Zonta Club of the Michigan Capital Area Foundation for support of her upcoming summer history trip to Prague, Czech Republic was declined.

A motion was made and seconded to support Martha Bloomfield's participation and travel to the upcoming summer history trip to Prague, Czech Republic in the amount of \$1,000; motion passed.

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It was reported that the Michigan State College of Music and Community Music School had applied for a grant from the Collaborative Arts Grant Program to develop a musical program entitled *Cycles—a Musical Journey through Michigan History*. The program would invite community members to explore Michigan's past through music and narration within the galleries of the Michigan Historical Museum. During this progressive concert/tour, live musicians will perform new music inspired by the exhibits and composed by the MSU Community Music School's Composer-in-Residence Marjan Helms. Concert-/Museum-goers attending this free event on May 1, 2011 will deepen their understanding of Michigan's history through an immersive story-telling experience. There was a request to the Friends from the Michigan Historical Museum to help support this effort.

A motion was made and seconded to support this program up to \$500 pending approval of the Grant by the Collaborative Arts Grant Program; motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary *Pro Temp*
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, July 12, 2010, in Lansing.

Attachment

The Friends of Michigan History, Inc. President's Annual Report 2010

Fiscal year 2009-2010, like 2008-2009, was a very difficult and challenging period for the Friends of Michigan History. It was an extremely difficult year for any group supporting the promotion of Michigan history because of the fiscal problems facing Michigan State Government, local units of government, Michigan business and a large number of Michigan citizens. In spite of aforementioned problems, the relative success of this organization is due to the support of our membership, the efforts of our Board of Directors and the dedicated employees of the Michigan Historical Center.

The aforementioned economic problems have had a negative impact on Friends membership renewals and our ability to promote successful fund raising programs which now take on added importance as state support of museum operations declines.

Uncertainty concerning the departmental structure, the fate of the Historical Center in Lansing, ownership of Michigan History Magazine and numerous related questions created tensions, to name a few, between the Friends and the executive and legislative branches of government and the Michigan History Foundation.

While some of the issues have been resolved others will face the Friends in the coming year and beyond. In my opinion, our existence depends on our prudent response to a series of importance issues which will have to be addressed within the next few months.

It is important to note that up to the time of the transfer of ownership of the Michigan History magazine, practically every dollar the Friends collected supported the operation of the Michigan Historical Center. Our administrative costs were and continue to be contracted with the Michigan Historical Center Foundation. Magazine subscriptions provided to our membership were purchased from the now defunct Department of History, Arts and Libraries and the overwhelming majority of our contributions directly supported Michigan State Museum operations.

Among the purposes for which the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. was organized is to “receive and administer funds for the betterment of the Michigan Historical Center and other Michigan organizations devoted to the fostering and preservation of Michigan History; to promote the educational and interpretive activities of the Historical Center and other Michigan organizations that promote the preservation of Michigan History; and to support the museum, docent organization, archives and archaeology programs conducted for the Michigan Historical Center.” Therefore I am proud to report some of our activities in support of the above listed goals:

Sponsored:	Annual Veterans Day program and Massing of the Colors
Allocated:	\$200 for museum activities related to the annual Silver Bells celebration
Allocated:	\$700 for the 20 th Anniversary of the Michigan Historical Center
Allocated:	\$1,000 for Summer Sizzles Day Camp
Allocated:	\$700 for Harvest Fest
Allocated:	\$1,000 for Archaeology Day
Allocated:	\$700 for Haunted History Program
Allocated:	\$1,000 for Docent Programs
Allocated:	\$1,000 for Winter Fest
Allocated:	\$1,000 for Statehood Day Programs
Allocated:	\$1,000 for Scout, Camp and Week-end Programs
Allocated:	\$500 for Community outreach, Music Program and Advent House Program
Allocated:	\$450 for Michigan Historical Society Awards-2009
Allocated:	\$450 for Michigan Historical Society Awards-2010
Allocated:	\$300 for Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster
Allocated:	\$75 for Organization Membership with Historic Fort Wayne
Allocated:	\$500 for Michigan Oral History Conference
Allocated:	\$175 for Swainson Award Plaque

Our Fayette Historic Town Site affiliate continues its solid support of programs at Fayette and the Friends of Michigan History Walker Tavern affiliate continues working in support of programs and renovations at the Walker Tavern site.

Even though the Friends face serious challenges for 2010-2011, with your support we can and will continue to support museum operations and help insure the survival of quality state museum programs.

I extend my heartfelt personal thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Francis “Bus” Spaniola